

**Ngallenka Irrigation System Inauguration
Remarks by Chargé d’Affaires Sandra Clark
Monday 27 October 2014**

(As prepared)

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall
The Honorable Governor of Saint Louis
The Mayor of Podor
Residents of Podor
Citizens of Senegal

I am thrilled to join you today in Podor, beside the President of the Republic of Senegal to inaugurate this irrigation system in the Cuvette of Ngallenka. What a magnificent system, that brings water to where there was none, and that permits irrigation of rice and vegetables where once it was impossible. The Ngallenka irrigated perimeter is a marvel of science and engineering. It boosts the agricultural production of Senegal and allows you, the farmers, to provide a better living for your families. It is also an experiment. The Ngallenka perimeter is just one of seven cuvettes that were studied under the program of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a US Government Agency. If Ngallenka shows that this land and this water can be productive, the Government of Senegal can easily reproduce similar projects on a regional level.

I would like to thank the people of Podor for the care and caution they used in the repartition of these lands. Access to fertile land is a fundamental requirement for a peaceful agricultural society. I understand that the community processes that led to distribution of these lands was led with expertise by the communautés ruraux, and that together, you the inhabitants and people of this region, have adopted and implemented land management protocols based on fairness, transparency, and mutual accord. I congratulate you, and hope that this vision will be replicated across the region and even the world.

I would like to thank the team of Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) for the many years of collaboration and effort that were invested in making this project a reality. How amazing to think that in 2009 this was nothing more than a plan: now we have water in the canals and seeds in the earth! It is not easy to manage complicated programs. Under the leadership of Director General, Mr. Papa Modou Ndiaye, MCA and you have produced results of which we can all be proud.

As Chargé d’Affaires at the US Embassy in Senegal, I represent President Barack Obama, but also the American people. And it is the generosity of the American people, through MCC, that have made this gift possible to rural agriculteurs of Senegal. The partnership between the Governments of Senegal and U.S. will soon celebrate other accomplishments. Tomorrow, I will join President Sall in opening the Ndioum Bridge. The completion of the RN2 and RN6 transport corridors rehabilitations and the irrigation systems improvements in the Delta will follow in the coming year. When President Obama visited in June 2013, he said “the United States will remain one of Senegal’s strongest partners in development – from new roads and bridges to new textbooks and schools.” With Ngallenka’s irrigation system, Ndioum’s bridge and the projects to follow, we are making good on President Obama’s commitment through a combined U.S. investment of \$540 million dollars in the MCC program, executed over five years. I congratulate the Senegalese people for the years of hard work that went into this project and that make today’s event possible. And on behalf of the American people I’d like to wish you the best of success in raising the crops that will make the Senegalese economy stronger every day for you, your families and future generations.